

## **TOOLBOX TALK #11**

### **INSPECT YOUR HAND TOOLS – PART II**

Workers who use hand and/or power tools can expose themselves and coworkers to personal injuries and illnesses such as lacerations, crushes, burns, amputations, fractures and musculoskeletal disorders, skin and pulmonary illnesses, sight and hearing damage, and electrical shock and burns.



The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in 2016 that the private industry sector recorded 40,600 injuries and illnesses involving days away from work cases (DAWC) involving tools, 29,680 of these injuries happened while using non-powered tools and 10,920 during the use of powered tools. The hand was the part of the body most affected. Here's what to check for with HAND TOOLS to reduce the risk of these injuries.

#### ***Pliers***

- Pivot points and/or joints are firm. If a plier is electrically insulated, check that the insulation has not been compromised, exposing the underlying conductive material.
- Pliers are not being abused. For example, hammering the jaws to cut a wire or bolt.

#### ***Files and wood rasps***

- Teeth are of equal height and not dull.
- Handles, if not integral, are firmly attached to the tang.
- Files do not present any abnormality in their shapes and surfaces which could indicate that they were used as a pry bar or a hammer.
- Files are dry and there is no foreign material stuck in between the teeth.
- A file card/brush is available for cleaning the grooves.

#### ***Clamps***

- Only specialized lifting clamps are used to hoist objects.
- Clamps are not used to permanently hold objects in place.
- The frames and/or spindles are not bent.
- Their moving parts are clean and oiled.
- If present, the swivel is turning free.

#### ***Chisels***

- Handles are firmly attached to the tang and not cracked if made of wood.
- No mushroomed heads.
- The cutting edges are sharp.

#### ***Utility Knives***

- Utility knives not in use have their blade retracted.
- Handles are not damaged.
- The blades are not dull and their tips are not damaged.